

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified double stranded short interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecule comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein:
 - a. each strand of said siNA molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length; and
 - b. the antisense strand of said siNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that is complementary to a portion of an Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) nucleotide sequence-RNA comprising encoded by SEQ ID NO: 674; and
 - c. the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion of said HBV ~~sequence-RNA~~ of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - d. about 100% of the nucleotides positions in one or both strands of said siNA molecule are chemically modified nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at a 5'-end, a 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand comprise 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Previously Presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the siNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently Amended) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said chemically modified nucleotides have one or more chemical modifications selected from the groups consisting of is-a-phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotide, universal base nucleotide, 5-C-methyl nucleotide, and inverted deoxybasic ~~modifications or any combination thereof.~~